

Docket No.:  
065446.0115

PATENT APPLICATION  
09/258,974

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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interviews conducted on March 28, 2001. During the interviews, the Examiner indicated that the amendments to Claims 1 and 21 would place those claims in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 21 to incorporate the element suggested by the Examiner. Applicant notes that Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite a "low propagation delay" comparator, which distinguishes prior systems and methods having a propagation delay of 12 microseconds or more.

Applicant also noted during the interview that the *Lee* and *Sharpe* references fail to teach or suggest the elements recited in Claims 15, 23, 26, 27, and 28. Applicant has amended these claims to be in independent form. These amendments rewrite but do not narrow the scope of Claims 15, 23, 26, 27, and 28.

Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-15, 17-21, and 23-29.

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### CONCLUSION

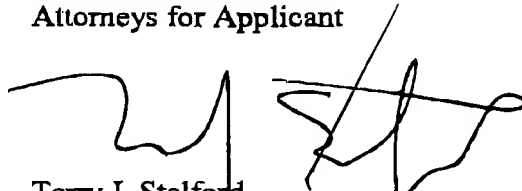
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney for Applicant, Terry J. Stalford, stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Stalford may be reached at 214-953-6477.

Applicant has enclosed an Amendment Fee Transmittal sheet to cover the amendments to the claims. Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant



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Date: April 5, 2001

